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## ADVISORY BOARD

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August 24, 2009  
City Hall – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 12:30 P.M.  
Engineering Conference Room  
2 Civic Center Plaza, El Paso, Texas

### MINUTES

**Members Present: 8**

Richard C. Bonart, Charles S. Wakeem, Michael E. Armstead (departed 1:55 p.m.), Lois Anne Balin, Walt Phillips (departed 2:10 p.m.), Luis M. Ruiz (departed 12:45 p.m.), Richard L. Thomas, James H. Tolbert

**Members Absent: 0**

**Member Vacancies: 1**

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Gonzalo Cedillos

**Parks and Recreation Staff Present:** Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, Shamori R. Whitt, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator, Richard Garcia, Park Development Manager

**Others Present:** Patricia Adauto, Deputy City Manager, Deborah Hamlyn, Deputy City Manager, Lupe Cuellar, City Attorney's Office, Phillip Etiwe, Development Review Manager, Fred Lopez, Planning Division, Linda Castle, Planning Division, Eddie Garcia, Planning Division, Nick Costanzo, EPWU

1. Meeting Called to Order - Chair Bonart called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. and introductions were made.
2. Approval of Minutes: July 27, 2009  
Motion by Luis Ruiz to approve the minutes. Second by Charles Wakeem. Motion carried (unanimous).
3. Agenda Amendment: Motion by Charles Wakeem to move Agenda Item 6 to the forefront of the agenda. Second by Richard Thomas. Motion carried (unanimous)
4. Discussion and Information: Expenditures of collected Stormwater funds for Open Space and Drainage

Nick Costanzo, EPWU, briefed the Board on the status of the FY09 and FY10 open space projects funded by the Stormwater Fee. EPWU is currently negotiating property acquisitions, therefore, he could not offer information specific to any purchase but stated that all top 11

open space projects are current priorities. Mr. Costanzo said he would return with an update as soon as properties were closed on. Chair Bonart requested that Mr. Costanzo provide the Board with more information on the funding allocated for localized flooding projects at a future meeting.

5. Presentation and Information: Open Space Advisory Board duties and City Planning Commission responsibilities and duties and interaction between the two bodies.

Lupe Cuellar, City Attorney's Office, briefed the Board on the purpose and duties of the City Planning Commission. Ms. Cuellar explained regulations and timelines regarding the subdivision code, plats, zoning and land studies. She advised the Board that it was currently not in their purview to advise the City Planning Commission and to do so would require an amendment of the enabling ordinance. Deputy City Manager, Pat Adatao, indicated that the enabling ordinance of the Board precisely ruled out the City Planning Commission as to avoid potential conflicts. Ms. Adatao stated that the Board should focus on making recommendations to Mayor and Council regarding ordinances to address the limitations in the City's current codes and standards. Vice-Chair Wakeem expressed that the Board should become familiar with the implementation strategy outlined in Chapter 6 of the Open Space Master Plan.

Chair Bonart moved to Agenda Item 5 due to technical difficulties with the PowerPoint presentation for Desert Springs Land Study agenda item.

6. Discussion and Action: Open Space Zoning Category

Fred Lopez, Planning Division, presented draft language of the Open Space Zoning Category (handout). The Board indicated they would like to see more research regarding options for parking policies, auxiliary signs, rock walls and buffers. Mr. Lopez indicated that he needed the Board to assist him with this research and recommended that they provide him with model ordinances, if possible. Action was postponed until next meeting.

7. Discussion and Information: Funding mechanisms for the Open Space Master Plan

Motion made by Charles Wakeem to postpone Agenda Items 8 & 9 until next meeting. Second by Richard Bonart. Motion carried with 5 affirmative votes (Armstead, Phillips & Ruiz not present)

8. Discussion and Action: Desert Springs Land Study

Eddie Garcia, Planning Division, and Richard Garcia, Park Development Manager, gave a joint presentation regarding the Desert Springs Land Study. Members of the Board stated that they were disappointed with the staff recommendations to the City Planning Commission. Chair Bonart showed a PowerPoint presentation and photos of a hybrid channel in Summerland, NV that he believes is a good example of how the City should handle drainage. The Board was advised that any comments they wanted to make to the City Planning Commission regarding the Desert Springs Land Study should be made as private citizens and not as a Board. The Board requested discussion of natural drainage solutions at the next meeting and that the City's Engineering Department attends. No action was taken on this item.

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9. Discussion: Items for Future Agendas

Staff recommended that the Board limit the agenda to four items (in addition to housekeeping items) in order to preserve quorum and staff participation. Chair Bonart agreed and requested that the three items postponed from today's meeting be placed on the next agenda along with discussion and information on natural Stormwater design with City Engineering and Stormwater. Staff recommended that members find examples on best practices in other communities to present to Engineering.

10. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Shamori Whitt, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator